This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the following claims as indicated:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing a password protected content file without revealing to a recipient a password that protects the password protected content file, comprising steps of:

   a. distributing to the recipient's computer an unlocking program having ~~access to at least one~~ a password embedded within the unlocking program, the password corresponding to the password that protects the password protected content file;

   b. distributing the password protected content file to the recipient's computer wherein ~~upon activation~~ the unlocking program automatically supplies the ~~at least one~~ password embedded within the unlocking program to an application program upon the application program loading ~~of~~ the password protected content file wherein the ~~at least one~~ password embedded within the unlocking program is not revealed to the recipient.

2. (Cancelled)

4

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the unlocking program is adapted to run separately from the application program and to monitor the application program for a request for a password.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein steps a and b are repeated at a predetermined rate and wherein the password protecting the password protected content file and the password ~~accessed by~~ <u>embedded within</u> the unlocking program are different in each repeat cycle.

5.   (Withdrawn) A method for distributing a password protected content file without revealing the password to a recipient, comprising the steps of:

distributing a self-executing file stored on a computer readable medium, the self-executing file comprising:

a content file storing content, the content file being readable by an application program, the content file being locked with at least one password; and

an unlocking program having access to at least one password corresponding to the at least one password locking the content file, the unlocking program having instructions to automatically supply the at least one password to the application program upon the application program loading the content file.

5

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the content file is readable by an application program, and wherein the step of distributing the content file is defined further as supplying the at least one password to the application program upon the application program loading the content file.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the unlocking program is adapted to run separately from the application program and to monitor the application program for a request for a password.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein steps a and b are repeated at a predetermined rate and wherein the password protecting the content file and the password accessed by the unlocking program are different in each repeat cycle.

9. (Withdrawn) A self-executing file stored on a computer readable medium, the self-executing file comprising:

a content file storing content, the content file being readable by an application program, the content file being locked with at least one password; and

an unlocking program having access to at least one password corresponding to the at least one password locking the content file, the unlocking program having instructions to automatically supply the at least one password to the application program upon the application program loading the content file.

10. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the unlocking program includes at least one instruction for initiating the application program and for causing the application program to load the content file.

11. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the unlocking program includes means for preventing a screen capture representing at least a portion of the content stored in the content file.

12. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the unlocking program is adapted to run independently of the application program.

13. (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the unlocking program includes instructions for monitoring the running of at least one system administration program capable of terminating the unlocking program.

14.   (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 13, wherein the unlocking program includes instructions for automatically terminating the system administration program upon detecting the running of such system administration program.

15.   (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 13, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction for terminating the application program upon detecting the running of such system administration program.

16.   (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 15, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction for terminating the unlocking program after the application program has been terminated.

17.   (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the at least one system administration program includes a TaskManager program provided with a Windows operating system.

18.   (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction to prevent termination of the unlocking program.

19.   (Withdrawn) The self-executing file of claim 9, wherein the content file is characterized as a .pdf file.

20.   (Currently Amended) An unlocking program <u>stored on a computer readable medium</u> for unlocking a password protected content file stored on a computer readable medium and readable by an application program, the password protected content file being locked with ~~at least one~~ <u>a</u> password, the unlocking program ~~having access to~~ <u>being embedded with a</u> ~~at least one~~ password corresponding to the ~~at least one~~ password locking the password protected content file and <u>having</u> instructions to automatically supply the ~~at least one~~ password <u>locking the password protected content file</u> to the application program upon the application program loading the password protected content file<u>,</u> wherein the ~~at least one~~ password <u>locking the password protected content file</u> is not revealed to the recipient.

21.   (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the unlocking program includes at least one instruction for initiating the application program and for causing the application program to load the password protected content file.

9

22.   (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the unlocking program includes means for preventing a screen capture representing at least a portion of the content stored in the password protected content file.

23.   (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the unlocking program is adapted to run independently of the application program.

24.   (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the unlocking program includes instructions for monitoring the running of at least one system administration program capable of terminating the unlocking program.

25.   (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 24, wherein the unlocking program includes instructions for automatically terminating the system administration program upon detecting the running of such system administration program.

26. (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 24, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction for terminating the application program upon detecting the running of such system administration program.

27. (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 26, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction for terminating the unlocking program after the application program has been terminated.

28. (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the at least one system administration program includes a TaskManager program provided with a Windows operating system.

29. (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the unlocking program includes an instruction to prevent termination of the unlocking program.

30. (Previously Presented) The unlocking program of claim 20, wherein the password protected content file is characterized as a .pdf file.